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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Town of Yoshkar-Ola: Communications/New Buildings/Local Industry.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "Yoshkar-Ola is the capital of the Mari ASSR. The following information dates approximately to 1952.

Terrain

2. "The town stands on a rise in an area of swampy, marshy woodlands.

Communications

3. "A one-gauge [sic] railway leads to Yoshkar-Ola from the town of Zelenodl'sk thus linking it to the Moscow-Kazan railway line.
4. "The Malaya Kokshaga River, which flows past Yoshkar-Ola, is not navigable. The town has no port and no shipping connection with the Volga.
5. "Yoshkar-Ola has a small airfield which belongs to the Grazhdanski Vozdushny Flot (GVF-- Civilian Aviation Administration). There are no other airfields in the vicinity; the terrain is unsuitable.

Town

6. "The town of Yoshkar-Ola is really a large village. Most of the houses are built of wood and are one-story only. The streets are unpaved.
7. "About 20 stone buildings were built in the center of the town during 1946-1952. None are of military character or for military purposes. They include: the local House of Soviets, the town library, a theatre, a cinema, the Yoshkar-Ola Hotel, the Forestry Technical Institute, a pedagogical institute and a town hospital.

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Industry

8. "Four factories were built in Yoshkar - Ola during World War II:

- a) The Mari Scales Factory -- Manufactures table scales of five, 10 and 20 kilograms and 'weighbridges' of two, three, five and 10 tons.
- b) The Mari Factory for Electrical Equipment-- Manufactures various types of electro-static measuring apparatus, including voltameters, amper-meters, transformers and various magnetic electrical devices.

(It is possible that this factory also produces various electronic devices, such as electronic oscillographs. There have been reports to this effect but no confirmation [redacted])

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- c) The Mari Factory for 'Narrow-Film' Movie Equipment and Cameras.
- d) The Yoshkar-Ola Ski Factory -- Manufactures skis and lodkivolokushki (literally, 'drag-boats'; presumably, some type of freight sled) for the Soviet Army. These lodkivolokushki are used to transport machine guns, ammunition and minomioty ('mine throwers') in winter when the snow is very deep.

Natural Resources

9. "There are several large wood pulp factories in the Mari ASSR in the vicinity of Yoshkar-Ola. Timber is practically the only natural resource of the republic. In the spring it is floated down the Malaya Kokshaga River."

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